news release

Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence

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SENATORS DURENBERGER AND LEAHY LAUD CAPTURE

OF SHIP TERRORISTS

Senators Dave Durenberger (R-MN) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said today that the United States Intelligence Community is to be congratulated on its role in identifying and locating the aircraft carrying the terrorists of the Italian cruise ship, Achille Lauro. "The skillful handling of the situation without further loss of life by our intelligence organizations and the military demonstrates the professionalism of these elements of the government," Durenberger and Leahy said.

Durenberger and Leahy went on to say that our disagreements with Egypt over how to solve the problem should now be placed behind us. "Both the United States and Egypt should turn to a review of the lessons learned about how to handle future acts of terrorism. This is a common problem. The sooner we cooperate, the more we can expect similar success in countering future terrorists."

"While countries are getting better in combatting terrorism," they said, "we shouldn't overstate the one success. Egypt, Italy, Tunisia and other countries are all to be commended for trying to end the crisis quickly and peacefully without further loss of life. They are our friends and we want to keep it that way. This is not the end of the terrorism problem."

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